The book, EDUCATION, tells us, “True education means more than pursuing a certain course of study. It has to do with the whole person, and with the whole period of existence possible to human beings. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers.”

Is it possible that this development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers includes educational technology?

The blog, Dangerously Irrelevant, posted the following:

If we were really serious about educational technology, we would… [here are ten to get you started]

- show students how to edit their privacy settings and use groups in Facebook instead of banning online social networks because they’re ‘dangerous’ and/or ‘frivolous’;
- teach students to understand and contribute to the online information commons rather than ‘just saying no’ to Wikipedia;
- put a robust digital learning device into every student’s hands (or let them bring and use their own) instead of pretending that we live in a pencil, notebook paper, and ring binder world;
- integrate digital learning and teaching tools into subject-specific preservice methods courses rather than marginalizing instructional technology as a separate course;
- understand the true risk of students encountering online predators and make policy accordingly instead of succumbing to scare tactics by the media, politicians, law enforcement, computer security vendors, and others;
- find out the exact percentage of our schools’ families that don’t have broadband Internet access at home rather than treating the amorphous ‘digital divide’ as a reason not to assign any homework that involves use of the Internet;
- treat seriously and own personally the task of becoming proficient with the digital tools that are transforming everything instead of nonchalantly chuckling about how little we as educators know about computers;
- recognize the power and potential (and limitations) of online learning rather than blithely assuming that it can’t be as good as face-to-face instruction;
- tap into and utilize the technological interest and knowledge of students instead of pretending that they have nothing to contribute;
- better educate and train school administrators rather than continuing to turn out new leaders that know virtually nothing about creating, facilitating, and/or sustaining 21st century learning environments;

What else could we add to the list?

If we were really serious about [Name an educational technology issue], we would [What should we do?] instead of [What are we doing?].

It’s time for us to get serious about educational technology! Educational technology is more than having a computer in the classroom. It is more than letting students play computer games when their school work is done. It is more than teaching keyboarding skills. It's time for us to get serious about the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers in our Adventist schools!

The twenty-first century is not a paper and pencil world. Education and evangelism have to do with the whole person, and with the whole period of existence possible to human beings. Our students have grown up in a digital world. The education we offer them needs to prepare them for this world. Games, keyboarding skills, and PowerPoint are not enough. There needs to be room for social networking, creating videos, on-line research, etc. Students must learn how to tell truth from error. They need to understand how to decide what is worth reading, viewing, and listening to. The moral value of copyright and bullying must be taught. Teachers need to understand the world their students are living in.

THE END That's all we have for the February PET newsletter. I hope we have encouraged you to think.

If you have any questions, comments, or complaints, send them to: vj3_poe@yahoo.com

I pray you continue to realize the blessings God has for you as you minister to His kids,

Remember, Circle.Adventist.org has all of the back issues of PET Newsletter.

Find them at: http://circle.adventist.org/browse/?browse_node=691